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Edgar allan poe biography book pdf

Edgar Allan Poe was an American writer born in 1809 in Boston, Massachusetts. His life was shrouded in mystery, and many details about him remain unclear to this day. Poe was known for his literary works, which often explored themes of mystery, horror, and the detective genre. Some of his most famous stories include "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Raven," and "The Fall of the House of Usher." These tales have become classics in the world of literature. Despite his success as a writer, Poe's personal life was marked by hardship and loss. He struggled with financial difficulties and had to turn to gambling to make ends meet. His relationships were also complicated, particularly with his foster parents, John and Frances Allan. Poe's mother, Elizabeth Arnold Poe, passed away when he was just two years old. His father, David Poe Jr., left the family early in Edgar's life. These events would later shape Poe's writing and sense of identity. Throughout his life, Poe faced numerous challenges and setbacks. He struggled to make a living as a writer and had to deal with personal losses, including the death of his mother and a failed engagement. Despite these difficulties, he remained committed to his craft and continued to produce remarkable literary works until his untimely death at the age of 40 in 1849. By the time he returned to Richmond, she had already passed away. During his stay in Virginia, Poe reconciled with his father for a brief period, and John helped him secure an appointment at West Point Academy. Although Poe excelled academically, he was eventually dismissed after one year due to his poor handling of his duties. In his time at West Point, Poe clashed with John, who had remarried without informing him. Some believe that Poe deliberately sought expulsion as a means of revenge against his father, who later severed ties with him. Following his departure from West Point, Poe focused on publishing and writing full-time. He traveled extensively to find opportunities, living in cities like New York City, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Richmond. In 1834, John Allan's death left Poe out of his will but ensured the well-being of an illegitimate child he had never met. Despite struggling with poverty, Poe received a break when one of his short stories won a contest in the Baltimore Saturday Visiter. He began publishing more short stories and landed an editorial position at the Southern Literary Messenger in Richmond in 1835. Poe developed a reputation as a harsh critic, writing scathing reviews of his contemporaries that earned him the nickname "The Tomahawk Man." His aggressive reviewing style and sometimes confrontational personality led to his brief tenure at the magazine. His struggles with alcohol also contributed to his departure from the publication in 1837. Poe went on to hold stints at various magazines, including Burton's Gentleman's Magazine, Graham's Magazine, The Broadway Journal, and Alexander's Weekly Messenger. In 1844, he moved to New York City, where he published a news story about a balloon trip across the Atlantic Ocean that turned out to be a hoax. His stunt garnered attention, but it was his publication of "The Raven" in 1845 that catapulted him to literary fame. That same year, Poe faced criticism for his harsh reviews of fellow poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, which resulted in a backlash against him. A financially struggling writer, Poe kept pushing for better pay for writers and a global copyright law.Poe self-published Tamerlane and Other Poems in 1827. He came out with Al Aaraaf, Tamerlane, and Minor Poems two years later in 1829. As the Southern Literary Messenger's critic from '35 to '37, Poe released some of his works there, including parts one and two of The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym. Then came poems such as “Ulalume” and “The Bells.”“The Raven” Poe's poem, "The Raven," published in 1845 in the New York Evening Mirror, is known for being among America's greatest poems and one of Poe's best works. In it, an unknown narrator grieves over his lost love Lenore. He meets a raven who keeps repeating the word “Nevermore.” The poem is divided into 18 six-line stanzas where Poe touches on death and loss.Poe continued to explore these themes in "Annabel Lee." This lyric poem might have been written for his wife Virginia, who passed away two years before its release. It came out in the New York Tribune on October 9, 1849, just two days after Poe's passing. Poe's life was marked by personal struggles and literary triumphs. He resided with his aunt Maria Clemm and her daughter Virginia in Baltimore from 1831 to 1835. During this period, Poe began to focus his attention on Virginia, who not only became his love interest but also served as a source of inspiration for his work. The couple married in 1836 when Virginia was just 13 years old, while Poe was 27. Virginia's untimely death from tuberculosis at the age of 24 left Poe devastated. He struggled with poor health and financial difficulties until his own passing in 1849. His final days remain somewhat of a mystery, with some speculating that he died due to alcoholism or other conditions such as rabies, epilepsy, or carbon monoxide poisoning. Poe's reputation was further tarnished by the literary adversary Rufus Griswold, who penned an obituary portraying Poe as a mentally deranged drunkard and womanizer. Despite this, Poe has become one of America's most enduring writers, with his works continuing to captivate readers with their innovative and imaginative storytelling. His dark themes have influenced notable authors such as Charles Baudelaire, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, and Stephane Mallarmé. Poe's former home in Baltimore, where he lived from 1831 to 1835 with his aunt Maria Clemm and her daughter Virginia, has been converted into a museum. The Edgar Allan Poe House offers a self-guided tour featuring exhibits on Poe's foster parents, life and death in Baltimore, as well as memorabilia including his chair and desk. As for the topic of death, Poe believes that the passing of a beautiful woman is undoubtedly the most poetic theme. He also reflects on the nature of sound, passion, and human existence, questioning the boundaries between life and death. Poe's own creative process is influenced by his passions, which he holds in reverence, rather than seeking to impress or gain recognition from others. He also touches on the idea that all we experience may be just a dream within a dream, and expresses skepticism about human perfectibility. The passage concludes with Poe's musings on beauty, its ability to evoke strong emotions, and his thoughts on the fleeting nature of human existence. Edgar Allan Poe was an accomplished American author, poet, and editor who is renowned for his dark and mysterious writing style. Born in Boston in 1809 to English-born actress Elizabeth Arnold Poe and actor David Poe Jr., he grew up with a passion for literature. After his mother's death, Poe was raised by John Allan, a Richmond merchant, where he received a classical education that would shape his future literary endeavors. Poe's writing career began with the publication of his poem "Tamerlane" in 1827, which showcased his skills as a young writer. However, financial struggles led him to join the army under an assumed name, only to be released by John Allan after Poe's foster mother passed away. This setback did not deter Poe, who continued to write and publish his works, including "Al Aaraaf" and "Tamerlane" in 1829. Poe's literary talent earned him a place at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he successfully sought expulsion due to his absence from classes. This brief stint allowed Poe to focus on his writing career, publishing several volumes of poetry that showcased his mastery of language and style. His influence can be seen in writers such as John Keats, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Throughout his life, Poe's work was marked by its dark and macabre themes, which captivated readers and established him as a pioneer in the detective story genre. His famous tale "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" (1841) is considered one of the first modern detective stories, while his poem "The Raven" (1845) remains one of the most iconic poems in American literature. With his pet cat Catalina on his shoulder and his wife Virginia Clemm by the fireside, Poe began his writing career in Baltimore. His early success came with "MS. Found in a Bottle," which won $50 from a local publication in 1833. He later became editor of the Southern Literary Messenger in Richmond, where he married his young cousin at just 13. However, his job was short-lived due to alleged drinking issues, prompting him to move to New York City. To function well in large social settings, Poe relied on slight stimulants like sherry, but excessive consumption led some to speculate about his possible addiction to opiates. Medical tests revealed a brain lesion, providing an alternative explanation for his struggles with substance use. In 1838, he published The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym, which combined fact and fiction in its narrative style. Poe's writing career gained momentum in the late 1830s, as he coedited Burton's Gentleman's Magazine and began producing supernatural horror stories like "William Wilson" and "The Fall of the House of Usher." The latter was inspired by a real-life acquaintance, with some characteristics mistakenly attributed to Poe himself. He went on to write Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque in 1839, which sparked his interest in detective fiction. Poe's work was recognized with several prizes, including $100 for "The Gold Bug" from the Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper in 1843. This success brought him great public attention, propelling him forward as a prominent writer. Under N.P. Willis at the New York Mirror, Poe became lifelong friends. His most famous poem "The Raven" appeared in the American Review in January 1845, gaining national fame. The poem consists of 18 stanzas with a distinctive meter and rhyme scheme. It's an evocative ballad of lost love with a gloomy tone. In 1845, Poe became editor of the Broadway Journal, republishing his short stories. He also published "The Raven and Other Poems" and "Tales". That year, poet Frances Sargent Locke Osgood pursued Poe, causing scandal due to her writings about their relationship. Poe moved to Fordham in 1846, where he wrote for Godey's Lady's Book. His gossipy sketches led to a libel suit. In January 1847, his wife Virginia died. The following year, he went to Providence to woo Sarah Helen Whitman but ended up not marrying her. Poe had close relationships with Annie Richmond and Sarah Anna Lewis, who helped him financially. He composed poetic tributes to them. In 1848, he published the lecture "Eureka", which received mixed reviews. The following year, he went south, had a wild time in Philadelphia, but eventually got engaged to Elmira Royster and spent a happy summer with her. Poe's life came to an untimely end, as he departed Richmond for Baltimore in late September with a premonition of impending doom. The exact circumstances surrounding his passing remained unclear even into the 21st century, with theories pointing towards excessive drinking or heart failure. He was laid to rest in Westminster Presbyterian churchyard in Baltimore.